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WOLVERINE ORIGINS

ORIGINAL SIN: PROLOGUE

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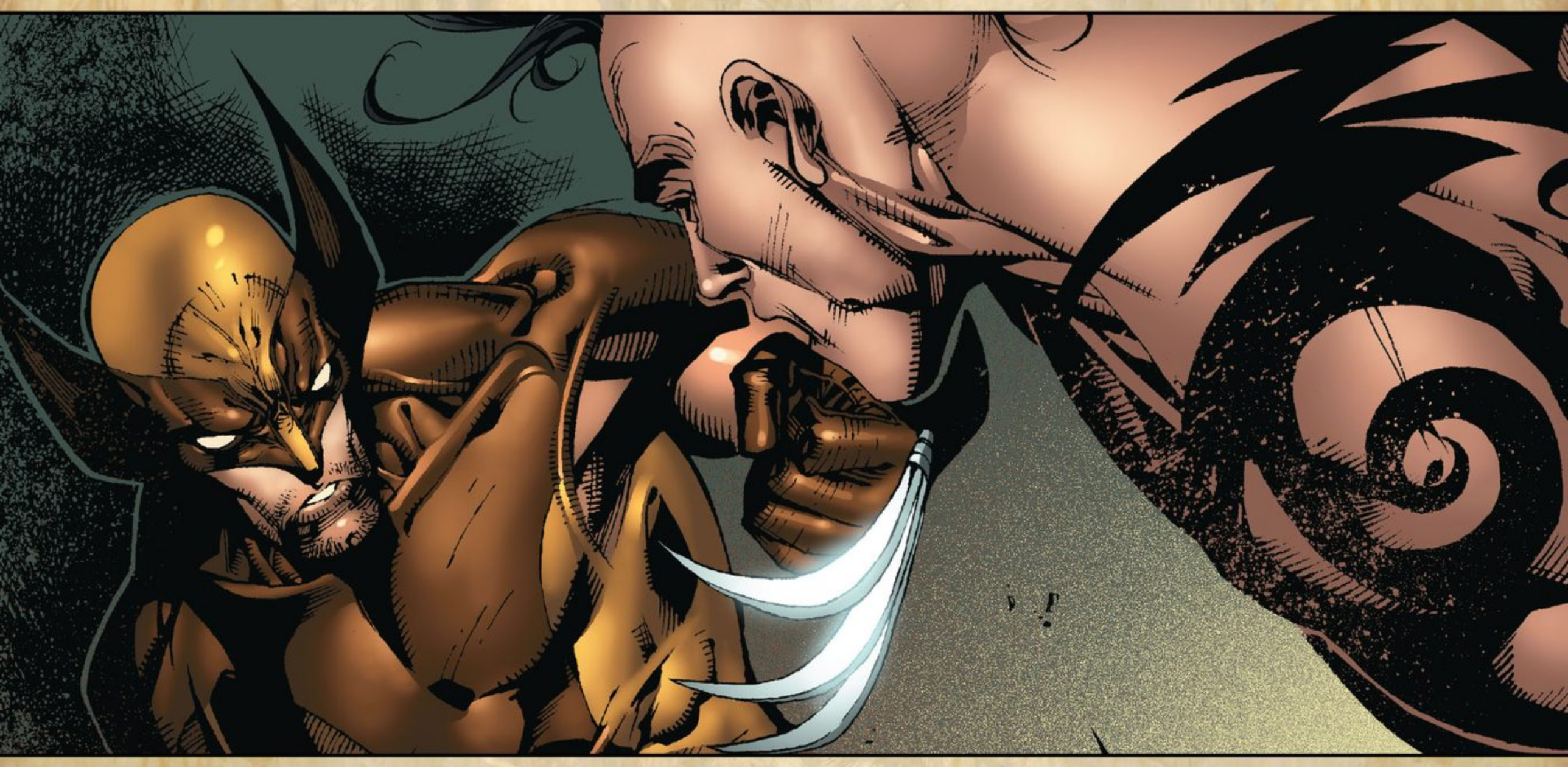
WOLVERINE
ORIGINS

The mutant Wolverine has spent a century fighting those who would manipulate him for his unique powers—razor-sharp claws, heightened senses, and a healing factor capable of miracles. After repeated brainwashing, torture, and reprogramming, Wolverine's past was as much a mystery to him as to anyone. With those long-lost memories finally returned to him, Wolverine has set out on a mission to punish the conspirators who have wronged him.



During the course of this mission, Logan has tracked down and captured his long-lost son, Daken. Just like his father, Daken is vicious, ruthless, virtually unstoppable—and he wrongfully blames Logan for the death of his birth-mother. With Daken unconscious and in chains in a cave in Northern California, Logan tries to figure out how to help his son escape the influence of the mysterious Romulus.

An unusual opportunity presents itself when Daken regains consciousness—and doesn't know who he is...

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WH-WHO *ARE* YOU?

WHO AM I?

WHAT DO I SAY TO HIM? WHAT *CAN* I SAY TO HIM?

THAT I'M HIS FATHER?

THAT HIS NAME IS "*DAKEN*," WHICH IS JAPANESE FOR "*MONGREL*"?

THAT, BECAUSE OF WHAT *I AM*--BECAUSE OF WHAT *WE ARE*--HIS MOTHER WAS *SLAUGHTERED* AND HE, *BARELY ALIVE*, WAS STOLEN FROM HER DYIN' WOMB AN' RAISED AS A *KILLER* BY A HEARTLESS MONSTER NAMED *ROMULUS*?

ANYTHING I SAY COULD TRIGGER HIS MEMORIES...*AN'* HIS PROGRAMMING.

THE CARBONADIUM BULLET LODGED IN HIS BRAIN IS SLOWIN' HIS HEALIN' FACTOR TO A CRAWL BUT THAT AIN'T GONNA LAST FOREVER--HELL, FOR ALL I KNOW, IT WON'T LAST THROUGH THE *NIGHT*. AT ANY MOMENT, HE COULD REMEMBER *JUST HOW MUCH HE HATES ME.*

DAKEN'S MY SON, SO I GOTTA ASSUME HE'S GOT THE SAME BUILT-IN "LIE DETECTOR" AS ME, SO... THIS IS ONE O' THOSE TIMES WHERE I GOTTA TELL THE *TRUTH*...BUT NOT *THE WHOLE TRUTH.*

I'M A FRIEND.

SNIKT

I'M LIKE YOU.

HE'S ALREADY SHOWED ME THAT WHATEVER ROMULUS DID TO HIM GOES TO THE *BONE*--WHEN HE WOKE UP...

...HIS FIRST INSTINCT WAS TO *KILL*.

BUT--*FOR THE TIME BEIN'*, AT LEAST--HE DOESN'T KNOW WHY.

I GOTTA MOVE FAST.

I'M GONNA TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE... TO SOMEONE WHO CAN *HELP* YOU.

WHO?

GOOD QUESTION.

ANOTHER... *FRIEND?*

HOPE SO.

C'MON...

ONLY WHEN SHE *WANTS* TO BE...

"...HIGHWAY'S *THIS* WAY."

I'VE ALWAYS TRIED TO KEEP MY PERSONAL BUSINESS AWAY FROM THE OTHER X-MEN... FOR *LOTS* O' REASONS.

BUT MAINLY 'CAUSE MY *PERSONAL BUSINESS* GETS INNOCENT PEOPLE *HURT*.

WHAT, AH...WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE *WEARIN'*, SON?

DRIVIN' BACK FROM A COSTUME PARTY AN' OUR CAR QUIT ON US.

MM-HMM...

...WHERE'S YER *CAR*, THEN?

AN' HOW MANY OF YA *ARE* THERE, *ANYWAY*?

CASE IN POINT:

OHMY *GLK--!*

NO!

KSHH

THIS POOR RANDOM BASTARD.

NOTHIN' BUT BAD LUCK BROUGHT HIM TO THIS PLACE AT THIS TIME, BUT HERE HE IS ANYWAY.

ABOUT TO DIE FOR NOTHIN'.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO KILL 'IM.

FUMP!

WE'RE TAKIN' THE *TRUCK.*

YOU CAN *KEEP* THE *GUN.*

I--I DON'T WANT IT--!

TAKE IT.

SNIKT!

BUT IF YOU TELL ANYBODY YOU SAW US... ANYBODY, EVER...

...WE'LL KNOW.

AN' WE'LL COME AN' FIND YA.

AN' ALL THE BULLETS IN THE WORLD WON'T SAVE YA.

BAD AS THAT COULD'A BEEN, IT'S GIVEN ME SOME *REAL HOPE:*

DAKEN COULD'A KILLED THAT GUY *EASY*...EASIER'N *JERKIN' 'IM OUTTA THE CAB O' THAT TRUCK*, THAT'S FOR SURE. AN' WHEN I TOLD 'IM TO STOP, HE *DID.*

HE'S NOT *TOO FAR GONE.*

HE'S NOT LIKE *CREED.*

HE CAN BE *SAVED.*

BUT NOT BY ME.

I NEED HELP. *DAKEN* NEEDS HELP.

THE KIND THAT ONLY *THE X-MEN* CAN GIVE US.

JUST LIKE WITH ME, ALL THOSE YEARS AGO, THEY'RE DAKEN'S ONLY CHANCE AT BECOMIN'...*SOMETHIN' ELSE.* SOMETHIN' *MORE.* BUT JUST 'CAUSE IT'S THE *ONLY* CHOICE DON'T MEAN IT'S AN *EASY* ONE 'CAUSE IT ALL COMES DOWN TO *THIS:*

INVOLVIN' THE X-MEN WITH *DAKEN* MEANS INVOLVIN' 'EM WITH *ROMULUS.* AN' THAT'S SOMETHIN' I'D HOPED I WOULD NEVER DO...

...AGAIN.

IT WAS MY LAST MISSION AS AN AGENT OF ROMULUS.

JUST LIKE USUAL, IT WAS A ***DOUBLE-BLACK OP***--A SECRET MISSION "*PIGGY-BACKED*" BY AN EVEN ***MORE*** SECRET MISSION. I HAD MY ***OFFICIAL*** ORDERS, ISSUED BY THE CANADIAN MILITARY...

...AND THEN I HAD MY ***OTHER*** ORDERS, ULTIMATELY ISSUED BY ROMULUS BUT DELIVERED TO ME THROUGH A "*LETTERBOX*"--A ***PAWN.***

ALSO JUST LIKE USUAL, I WAS TOLD THE BARE MINIMUM: SOMEONE--"X"--WAS ACTIVELY RECRUITING. ***PHASE ONE*** OF MY MISSION WAS TO MAKE SURE ***I GOT*** RECRUITED.

TO ENSURE THAT ***HAPPENED***--AN' THIS WAS THE PART THAT WAS COMPLETELY ***UN***-USUAL--I WAS SENT OUT INTO THE WORLD TO SHOW "*X*" WHAT I COULD ***DO.***

BZZZZT!

AN' WHO I COULD DO IT TO.

FOR ALL THE GOOD MY *CLAWS* DID ME...

SMASHAK!

...I MIGHT AS WELL'VE BEEN TRYIN' TO *SING HULK TO SLEEP.*

WAHUFF!

SLKKK!

BUT THEY *DID* WORK ON *WENDIGO.*

NEW PLAN.

WRAKK!

SSSSHHH

HRRAAH--?

RRAAAHH!

EVERYBODY THINKS THAT HULK IS DUMB.

THEY'RE *RIGHT.*

BUT HE *IS* SMART ENOUGH TO *KILL* YA...

RROARR!

BOOM!

WRRUNCH!

GRAAH!

NOW, DAMN IT!

...AN' HE'S SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT *THE ENEMY OF HIS ENEMY IS HIS FRIEND.*

NOW!

HRR--

--RRUH!

KRAAM!

THWUCK

DUMB BASTARD.

THRAK!

NOT DUMB *ENOUGH*, THOUGH...

TRIED TO KEY-HOLE 'IM IN THE EAR-- MY ONLY SHOT.

AN' *I MISSED.*

NOT...

HULK'S FRIEND...

KRK

THERE AIN'T MANY AROUND WHO CAN DESCRIBE WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO GET HIT BY THE HULK...SIMPLE FACT BEIN' THERE AIN'T MANY AROUND WHO CAN SURVIVE TO TELL THE TALE.

THERE AIN'T NO PAIN AT FIRST.

IT'S LIKE HE HITS YA SO DAMN HARD YA ACTUALLY LEAVE YER OWN BODY.

IT'S WHEN YA COME *BACK* THAT YA FEEL THE *PAIN.*

SHRAK

AN' YA REALIZE YER GOIN' TOE-TO-TOE WITH A WALKIN' EARTHQUAKE.

SMASH!

YOU!

DOOWN!

WOLVERINE! STAND DOWN!

YOUR MISSION TIME HAS ELAPSED-- WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE!

I...I CAN TAKE 'IM...

WHAT A LOAD O' B.S. *THAT* WAS.

THE CANUCKS QUICKLY FIGURED OUT THAT A DIRECT ASSAULT AGAINST THE HULK WOULD ONLY END IN TEARS...

BA-WHOOM!

...SO THEY GASSED 'IM.

WROOSH!

WHICH WAS A GOOD IDEA...

...BUT THEN THEY PUT 'IM IN A CAGE.

BAD IDEA.

KAROOM!

S-SIR! HE--IT'S ESCAPED!

SHOULD WE--?

JUST...

...JUST GET US BACK TO BASE ALIVE.

I DIDN'T ARGUE THE POINT.

I'D GONE UP AGAINST THE HULK AN' WALKED AWAY IN ONE PIECE. IF THAT DIDN'T IMPRESS "X", NOTHIN' WOULD.

IT DID.

DEPARTMENT H

WOLVERINE! THERE YOU ARE!

BRASS WANTS TO SEE YOU IN THE...

...CONFERENCE...

DAMN.

LITTLE BIT O' BUSINESS I WANTED TO TAKE CARE OF BEFORE I LEFT--TERTIARY OBJECTIVE STUFF, COMPLETELY ELECTIVE.

BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THOROUGH WHEN IT COMES TO KILLIN'.

SNIKT

NOW I GOTTA FIND MORE *BAGS*.

SPLAK!

KNOCK! KNOCK!

COME IN, WOLVERINE.

WHO'S *BALDY?*

THERE'S REALLY NO NEED TO TALK TO HIM, WOLVERINE.

I'M A *TELEPATH.* HE'S ONLY SAYING WHAT I WANT HIM TO SAY, *ANYWAY.*

THAT'S *TRUE,* ACTUALLY...

HMPH.

WELL, SEE, I *ASKED A QUESTION.* IT AIN'T SOMETHIN' I OFTEN *DO.*

SO WHEN *I DO* IT...

...I EXPECT AN *ANSWER.*

FAIR ENOUGH. MY NAME IS *CHARLES XAVIER.*

"X."

I'M A *FRIEND,* AND I'M HERE TO MAKE YOU AN *OFFER.*

BUT THAT DOESN'T SURPRISE YOU, DOES IT?

I CAN *HELP* YOU, LOGAN.

...HOW?

ORIGINAL SIN
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CONTINUED IN X-MEN: ORIGINAL SIN #1!